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U.S. SENDING 30,000 TO AFGHANISTAN, PG12

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Celebrity Buzz

Brand meets Katy's parents
pg 24

Russia unveils logo for 2014 Winter Games

sochi.ru 2014

OLYMPICS Russia has unveiled the new logo for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics — a design that represents the first time an Internet domain has been part of an Olympic host city's emblem.

Dmitry Chernyshenko, CEO of the Sochi organizing committee, said the new logo would help break Western stereotypes of a Russia stuck in the past, instead promoting the country as a dynamic and modern nation.

A lavish brand-unveiling ceremony took place Monday on Moscow's Red Square but most media were banned from attending.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saturna Island **Plane recovered from ocean**

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The right wing and pontoons are sheared off a float plane as the wreckage is lifted from the water yesterday onto a barge in Lyall Harbour at Saturna Island. Six people died and two survived after the Seair float plane crashed into the harbour Sunday. Story, pg 6.

Ski jumpers try highest court in fight for flight

Women athletes seek revisit of B.C. decision by Supreme Court

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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You can't keep female ski jumpers down — they just get up again and head to a higher court.

This time, the group of international female jumpers — who are suing for the right to compete in the 2010 Olympics — are taking their fight for flight to Canada's Supreme Court.

Lawyers filed a request before the country's highest court yesterday, asking them to revisit a lower court decision that found VANOC wasn't violating the Charter of Rights by not staging a women's ski jumping event.

The women tried to sue the organizing committee, arguing it was violating their rights to equality. But the B.C. Supreme Court found it was the IOC's decision, not VANOC's, whether to allow them to compete.

The B.C. Court of Appeal upheld the decision.

Deedee Corradini, president of Women's Ski Jumping USA, said this is their last hope to get into 2010.

"We will keep fighting around the world ... until the IOC lets them compete in the Olympic Games," she said, adding she's willing to take the fight to the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, if need be. "Not to go all the way ... would not be fair to these women jumpers. We would regret not exhausting every possibility."

Ross Clark, a Vancouver lawyer representing the women, said discrimination should not be tolerated in Canada. "We hope our highest court will take a look at this and grant our declaration," he said.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympic deadline

- The female ski jumpers hope the Supreme Court of Canada will grant the right to appeal in the next few weeks, and will expedite the hearing so a decision can be made in January, before the Games start on Feb. 12.

Suspected cop killer gunned down

SEATTLE The man suspected of gunning down four police officers in a suburban coffee shop was shot and killed by a lone patrolman investigating a stolen car early yesterday.

Later, four people were arrested for allegedly helping the suspect during a massive two-day manhunt.

Maurice Clemmons was carrying a handgun he took from one of the dead officers when a Seattle policeman recognized him near a stolen car in a working-class south neighbourhood about 2:45 a.m., assistant police Chief Jim Pugel said.

The vehicle was running but unoccupied when the officer pulled up, Pugel said.

The officer saw something moving, got out of his car, saw Clemmons and ordered him to show his hands and stop.

"He wouldn't stop," Pugel said. "The officer fired several rounds."

Clemmons also had sustained a serious gunshot wound from one of the four officers killed in the coffee-shop shooting.

Police planned to arrest more people who helped Clemmons, including some of his relatives.

Ed Troyer, a spokesman for the Pierce County sheriff, said investigators still aren't sure what prompted Clemmons to shoot the four officers.

"The only motive that we have is he decided he was going to go kill police officers," Troyer said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
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Entertainment pg22

Band armed to the teeth

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Local

Moustaches raise $6.5M

Movember, a fundraiser that aims to increase awareness of prostate cancer, raised $6.5 million across Canada, organizers said yesterday. More than 9,000 British Columbian men, including Daniel Mendes and Neil Chiles, left, participated by growing mustaches throughout November and donating to the Prostate Cancer Foundation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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News in brief

HEIST The winner of the next B.C. lottery may be a criminal. A store in Delta was held up by a man with a gun, who made off with $300 in lottery tickets and $45 in cash.

STRIKE Three hundred unionized workers based at Vancouver International Airport have voted 94 per cent in favour of strike action. They work for Swissport and provide handling and baggage services for Westjet and Continental Airlines.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Alongside the new U.S. strategy for Afghan war, Canada gears up to refocus at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs It's Called Football discusses a bid by the Argos to play at BMO field.

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Sun Peaks crowns first-ever Ski Bum

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

While many of us will be pining for the hot beach come January, one Brazilian man will be leaving that behind to blog about life in the snowy North as Sun Peaks' first official Ski Bum.

Thiago Lucena, a 29-year-old freelance photographer, beat 49 other contestants from around the world in the contest. He'll spend three months at the resort near Kamloops, engaging in winter activities and blogging about the experience.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thiago Lucena, Sun Peaks' new Ski Bum, is seen here at Bariloche in Argentina.

"I was bouncing off the wall (when I learned I had won)," Lucena told Metro Vancouver from Brazil yesterday. "I'm so excited. I'm without words."

Lucena said he only holidays in places where he can ski — like Chile, Argentina and California — because he loves the snow and mountains, adding that part of the attraction is that it's so different from Brazil. "People think I'm crazy. Everyone is at the beach and I'm always (chasing winter)," he said.

Lucena's all-inclusive stay, which is worth $35,000, includes flights, equipment, accommodation and ski passes.

Melanie Simmons, a Sun Peaks spokesperson, said his application video was chosen because he displayed a passion for skiing and a desire to share snow culture with the world.

"He'll be using social media to talk about Sun Peaks," she said. "It's not just three months on the slopes. He'll be updating the blog, Facebook and Twitter, and will be doing other fun winter activities."

Billboard posted to collect tips for murder investigation

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Vancouver police yesterday unveiled a billboard in the Downtown Eastside bearing the face of a woman whose body was found floating in the Fraser River this summer.

Lisa Arlene Francis, who was also known as Lisa Kireche, was a 41-year-old survival-sex worker who was last seen July 10. Two weeks later her body was found floating in the Fraser by a man who was walking along the shore.

The billboard was erected on Cordova Street between Hawks and Heatley avenues.

"Lisa worked in this area," said Const. Lindsey Houghton, a spokesman for Vancouver police. "She lived down here. She spent a lot of time down here ... Not everyone down here has access to traditional forms of media."

Police hope the sign, along with a $10,000 reward, will jar memories and generate clues.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver police unveiled this billboard in the Downtown Eastside yesterday to generate clues in the death of Lisa Francis, a sex worker who lived in the area.

It is the second time that Vancouver police have used a billboard to try to generate clues. In February 2006, police erected a billboard near city hall to find clues in the murder of Tracey Guthrie. Police eventually arrested Steve Vezina, who later pleaded guilty to her murder.

Houghton did not know how much this billboard cost, but said it would remain up for at least a month.

Officer in Taser case charged after fatal crash

CAR CRASH An officer involved in the fatal confrontation with Robert Dziekanski at Vancouver's airport has been charged with attempting to obstruct justice in connection to an unrelated car accident.

Cpl. Benjamin Monty Robinson was off duty when his vehicle collided with a motorcycle in October 2008 in Delta, killing 21-year-old Orion Hutchinson. Delta police had recommended a charge of impaired driving causing death and dangerous driving causing death, but the B.C. Crown says the charge assessment standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt was not met for those charges.

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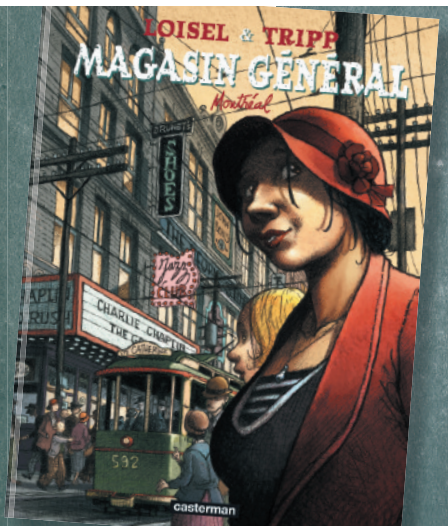

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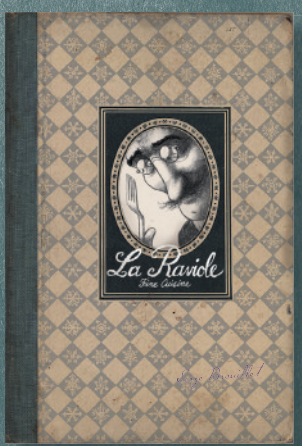
Pour tout achat de cet album dans une librairie, *Serge Brouillet* (Chef de *La Raviole*) et les éditions **Casterman**, vous offrent ce superbe menu du restaurant contenant 16 pages pleines de recettes et d'images de la série !



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Aquarium to unveil winning name in contest to name beluga

The Vancouver Aquarium is announcing the name of its youngest baby beluga whale on Breakfast Television at 8 a.m. today. The aquarium received thousands of votes for its name-the-baby contest and whittled the list down to five choices: Nalli, Sila, Nala, Kuvi and Uumamarik. **METRO VANCOUVER**

Body found after arson blaze at house

JEFF HODSON
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A man's body was found in the basement of a heritage home in upscale Shaughnessy yesterday following an overnight, three-alarm fire that investigators have deemed arson.

When firefighters arrived at 1518 Laurier Ave. after 9 p.m., the entire house was ensconced in smoke. Flames were seen coming from the basement.

A fire investigator discovered the body in the basement around 3 a.m., several hours after the fire was extinguished.

Const. Lindsey Houghton, a spokesman for Vancouver police, said the man's identity was not known and added that it would take some time for police to identify him.

He said there was no evidence to suggest the incident was a homicide, but added that it was early in the investigation.

The man's body was removed from the house at 3 p.m. Houghton said an autopsy would take place in the coming days.

Capt. Gabe Roder, a spokesman for the Vancouver fire department, confirmed that the fire was arson, but said he was not able to disclose what evidence investigators had found.

The house, which is listed for sale at $2.38 million, was the subject of a legal battle several months ago.

"It's too early to tell if that had anything to do with the fire," Houghton said. "And any comments to suggest that would be pure speculation at this point."

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Airport denies responsibility for Dziekanski's death

DEFENCE Vancouver International Airport has denied any responsibility for the death of Robert Dziekanski in a statement of defence to a lawsuit filed by his mother.

Dziekanski died at the airport in October 2007 after four RCMP officers stunned him with a Taser, and his mother is now suing the officers, the airport, and the federal and provincial governments.

Zofia Cisowski alleges airport staff failed Dziekanski by not helping him when he became agitated in the international arrivals area, not calling a translator and not calling in airport firefighters after he was stunned.

In a statement of defence filed in B.C. Supreme Court, the airport denies any responsibility and insists its staff used good judgment and followed their training in dealing with the Polish immigrant. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in brief

NO CHARGES A pair of 10-year-old girls who caused a massive, seven-hour police search when they ran away on Monday will not be charged. Investigators say they suspect the girls had planned their escape in advance.

FLASHER Two female joggers chased after a man who exposed himself to them in a Nanaimo park. Ann Holroyd and her teenage daughter charged the man with sticks and stones, yelling "coward." The flasher ran off and the women called police.

DAY OF CRIME A 21-year-old Langley man has been charged with eight offences in what police say was a "day of crime" that started before dawn on Nov. 26. Eric Hambleton is accused of, among other things, car theft and break and enter.

CELEBRATION The City of Vancouver is celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a public event at the Roundhouse Community Centre in Yaletown tomorrow. The celebration will include music, dance, art exhibitions, and sports demonstrations by those with disabilities. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Plane raised from sea bed

Investigators review fatal crash

A float plane that crashed off Saturna Island, killing six, has been raised from the ocean floor, allowing investigators to begin their search for answers to what caused the tragedy.

The right wing was missing and the left wing was intact but damaged. Both pontoons had been sheared off.

"It'll be on a barge and inspected before we head back to Vancouver, then it'll be trucked to Vancouver," said Bill Yearwood, an investigator with the Transportation Safety Board.

The single-engine de Havilland Canada Beaver owned by Seair Seaplanes of Richmond crashed on takeoff from Lyall Harbour on Sunday afternoon.

Six passengers were trapped in the sinking plane and their bodies were found still in the plane by search divers. The pilot and one female passenger managed to escape.

Seair manager Terry Hiebert said the pilot, who had not yet been interviewed by crash investigators, was recovering in hospital from broken bones and cuts.

He said the pilot had six years of experience, three of them with Seair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Officer lauded for key role in fighting gangs

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

A Vancouver anti-gang officer was honoured yesterday as police officer of the year by the Justice Institute of B.C.

Lisa Byrne has been an integral part of the effort to reduce gang-related gun crime in the Lower Mainland, award presenters said. She played a key role in helping Crown counsel prosecute gangsters.

"When I became a police officer, I expected driving fast and foot chases. Now I'm happy going to work, knowing I'm making the world a better and safer place to live for (kids)," Byrne said.

She followed in her father's footsteps when she joined Vancouver police in 2000 and plans to join the Vancouver Police Homicide Section once her current assignment ends.

8 deaths reported as experts say H1N1 virus on decline

Another eight H1N1 flu deaths have been recorded in B.C. in the last week, bringing the provincial death toll to 42 since April.

Health officials say five people who had the virus died last week and the other three deaths hadn't yet been reported from previous weeks.

Four of the deaths happened in the Fraser health region, while two occurred in the Interior and two on Vancouver Island.

In addition to the latest deaths, another 93 people have been admitted to hospital with severe flu symptoms, raising the provincial total since April to 957 cases.

Health officials have also said that the virus has peaked in B.C., and is on the decline.

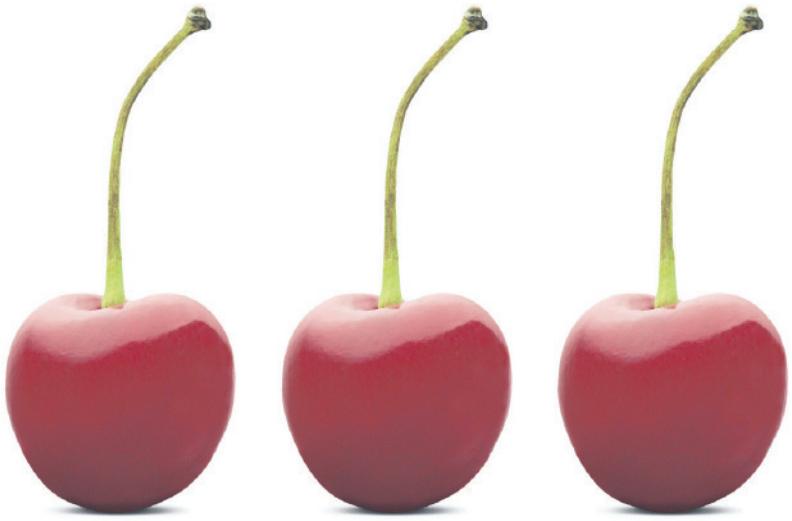
THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SCHOENBORN A psychiatrist who has worked on hundreds of court cases and parole board reviews says he has never heard a more disturbing account of killing than he heard from the B.C. father on trial for the murders of his three children. Dr. Shabehram Lohrasbe testified yesterday that Allan Schoenborn described the killing of his children in "so much detail."

AT-RISK YOUTH BladeRunners, an award-winning construction-skills training program for at-risk youth, received $180,000 from the province to expand its training programs into the multimedia sector. The BladeRunners Creative Industries pilot program will operate for the next 12 months.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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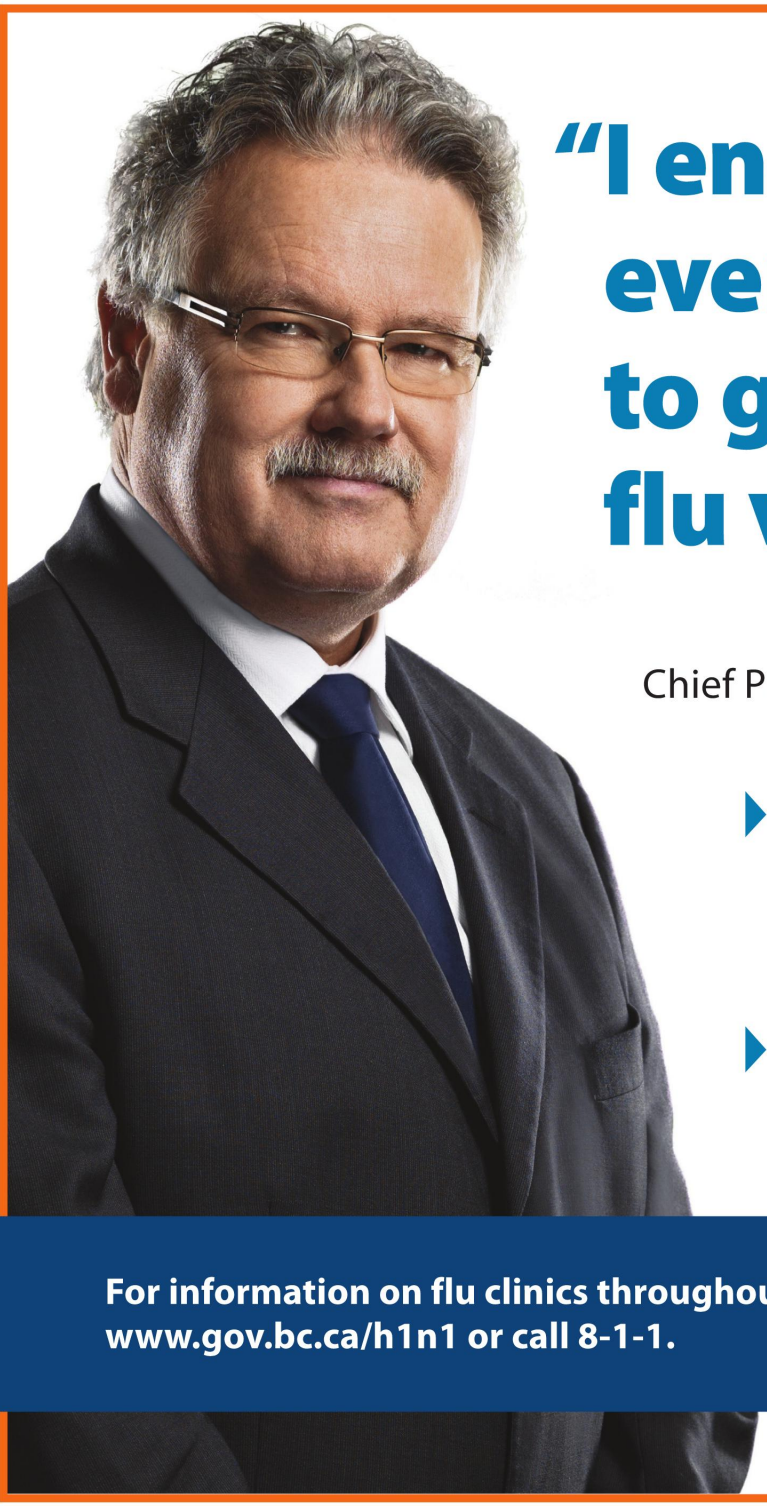

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Public Health Agency of Canada | Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Canada

Bill aims to help foreign HIV/AIDS sufferers

A federal private member's bill aims to make it easier for drug companies to ship cheap HIV/AIDS drugs to developing countries, CBC News Online reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

NATO looks to Canada

Before the backdrop of U.S. President Barack Obama's long-awaited new Afghanistan strategy, NATO commanders are putting Canada's military command in charge of the tactically vital Arghandab district north of Kandahar city.

As a result, two full battalions of troops already in the country — one American, the other Afghan — will come under the control of Brig.Gen. Dan Menard, the commander of the Canadian contingent known as Task Force Kandahar, by the new year.

Shifting focus

- Under U.S. army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, NATO has signalled its desire to shift the focus of counter-insurgency efforts to urban areas; Kandahar has been singled out among them.

"You'll get all these guys together focused on Arghandab under the command of Dan Menard," said Brig.-Gen. Frederick Hodges, director of operations for NATO's southern command. "I think that's a significant manifestation of the importance of that place on the city."

Many Kandaharis consider the Arghandab an extension of the city, where security and development are already Canada's responsibility.

The U.S. army battalion that's currently posted to Arghandab has been reassigned to secure the major highways in Kandahar. The change in the boundaries of Canada's area of operations are part of a more general shakeup of NATO activities in the south ahead of Obama's decision on troop levels. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parliament **Memorial boycott**

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister of State (Status of Women) Helena Guergis during a ceremony to commemorate Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women on Parliament Hill yesterday in Ottawa. Opposition critics boycotted a non-partisan ceremony yesterday marking the 20th anniversary of the Dec. 6 l'École Polytechnique massacre, saying Tory policies have rolled back the fight for women's equality and safety.

MPs vote for public inquiry into detainees, but Tories likely to shrug

OTTAWA The House of Commons has voted in favour of holding a judicial inquiry into the treatment of Afghan detainees, but the majority motion will likely be ignored by the governing Conservatives.

The Harper government, citing national security concerns, has been fiercely resisting attempts to fully probe the sensitive issue of whether Canada met all its international legal obligations in the handover of Afghan prisoners captured by Canadian troops.

Tories voted en masse against the NDP motion yesterday, but with the support of Liberal and Bloc Quebecois MPs, it passed by a vote of 146-129.

New Democrat MP Paul Dewar, in introducing the motion, noted the contradicting stories that have emerged at a Commons committee probing what was known about abuse in Afghan prisons in 2006-07. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservatives accused of concealing stimulus job numbers

ECONOMY The Harper government is well aware of how many jobs are being created through its massive infrastructure stimulus spending, but is embarrassed to publish the numbers, the Liberals are charging.

The Conservatives have always maintained that they do not track the job creation that stems from their $16-billion effort to cushion the blow of the recession.

But Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy produced paperwork yesterday from the Ottawa-Ontario agreement on the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund. The form shows that the federal government required municipalities to report how many jobs they expected to create.

"They know. What they don't want to do is tell," Kennedy told reporters.

"They're doing that for one reason. It's because their projects are failing." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Quebec Liberals accused of turning famed daycare program into a "pay-to-play" scheme. Scan this barcode for the full article.

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Comment

Changing our channels of thought

TheWestView

It looks as if Al Jazeera is coming to a TV near you. Maybe as close as your living room, if you have cable.

Last week, the CRTC approved Al Jazeera English (AJE), the Qatar-based English-language version of the most popular news network in the Muslim world, and the cable companies are lining up to carry the signal.

This is in marked contrast to the last round, in 2003, when its sister network, AJA (Al Jazeera Arab), tried for a licence in Canada and was vigorously opposed. This time, there were 2,600 submissions to the CRTC in favour. What a difference a few years makes.

I don't know if, as Al Jazeera claims, that the AJE and AJA are really two different organizations. I mean, really. But according to the CRTC, AJE "will expand the diversity of editorial points of view in the Canadian broadcasting system." And we're all for that.

Of course, if you stop to think about it for a minute, that seems to imply that there is no one standard, grade-A version of the truth,

and the only way we can snag that elusive commodity is to net it with a diversity of editorial points of view.

If news organizations such as Al Jazeera (and to be fair, Fox News, the BBC, Global, NBC, CBC, etc.) were all as objective as they claim to be, wouldn't they all be broadcasting the same, true stories?

And how far will we go with this diversity of editorial opinion notion? If TTVN (Taliban TV Network) wanted access to the nation's living rooms, how would the CRTC respond?

Let me point out quickly that I'm pretty much in favour of the AJE application. I know its managing director Tony Burman pretty well. We used to work together at the CBC and spent many shifts trying to figure what to put on or what not to put on The Journal. There was nothing in his demeanour to indicate terrorist tendencies. Once in a while he got a little grumpy, but that might have been the takeout we were forced to consume.

Still, if objectivity and truth exist totally in the eye of the beholder, will we ever really have any basis for agreement?

This problem is nothing new. In fact, it originated in the Middle East, even before the invention of television. It was called the Tower of Babel: Mass confusion, 24/7.

Is it really so different today?

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Who do you support in the cable TV vs. local broadcaster debate?

Bridgette Leeson
Vancouver

A: We definitely need local TV and I support that. We have local TV stations providing jobs, and we need that ... I support local TV, but as a consumer who already pays way too much for cable, I wouldn't want to pay.

Orri Sachar
Vancouver

A: To be honest Canadian TV isn't all that important to me. I don't watch it much myself so I wouldn't pay extra. I don't really support bailing out cable stations that made mistakes along the road.

Natalie Elyas
Vancouver

A: I support local TV, they do bring us local news and sports. You know we are Canadian and we should do our own thing. I am not a huge TV person, but I would pay more for local TV to support Canada.

Zane Julian
Ottawa

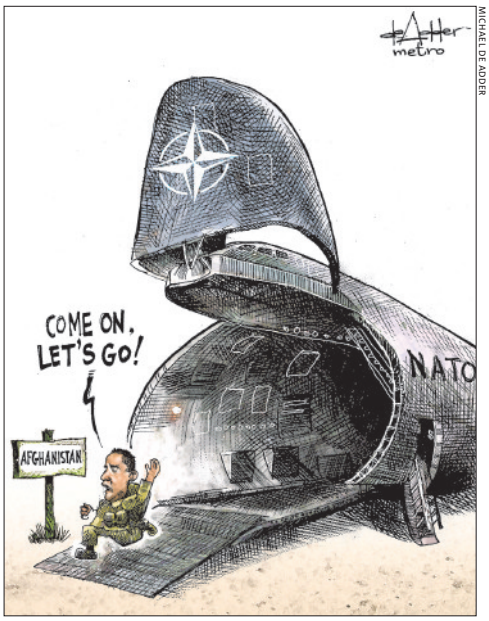
A: Local stations, for sure. People watching local TV shouldn't have to pay more for it. I don't agree with that. If cable companies are going to get our money, they should be supporting Canadian shows.

Erica Woods
Toronto

A: I think that both cable channels and network channels are greedy ... Cable is fairly expensive already, so this is price gouging. I agree with neither.

Dionysius David
Calgary

A: Depends on how you look at it because it is a business, but on the flip side consumers should be able to opt out of the services if they have to pay extra.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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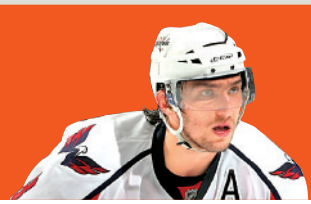
Bruins lock up Savard
Marc Savard is staying put in Boston for a while. The Bruins have signed the centre to a seven-year contract extension that will keep him with the club through the 2016-17 season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Ovechkin suspended

Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin, left, has been suspended for two games for a knee-on-knee hit on Carolina defenceman Tim Gleason Monday. Ovechkin hurt his knee in the hit and was pronounced "day-to-day" by the Capitals yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Canucks lack quality wins

TheHockeyNews

Rory Boylen
thehockeynews.com

The Vancouver Canucks have stayed firmly within the playoff hunt despite key injuries to star players that would put most other teams on the brink of the draft lottery.

But with the return of Daniel Sedin, the all-world play of Roberto Luongo making a clear case for him to become Team Canada's Olympic starter and a coming-of-age of sorts for Ryan Kesler and Mason Raymond, all excuses are off the table and a push has to be made.

Do you know how many quality wins the Canucks have this season? How about one.

That's right. One. Out of all the games they have played so far, one has turned into a win really worth celebrating.

That's not a stat common among playoff teams, not to mention Cup contenders, of which Vancouver is supposed to be.

Looking back, the Canucks have dominated Colorado and Los Angeles, who are both having good seasons thus far, but both lack the quality of the league's truly elite. Colorado is crashing back to reality after a hot start that fooled few and while Los Angeles is taking great strides towards the playoffs, they are still a young team that a tested one like Vancouver should defeat more often than not.

The lone big victory came way back on Oct. 21 in Chicago when Vancouver defeated their nemesis 3-2. It was huge because it was the first time the teams met since the young Hawks dumped the favored Canucks in Round 2 of the playoffs and also because it was on the road.

Some may point to the Rangers as another quality win, but the Broadway Boys came out like gangbusters in the same sense as the Avs did, but have since shown signs that their current group isn't really much more than a fringe playoff team.

Losses to Detroit (twice), Calgary (twice), San Jose (once) and even Chicago (once) are alarming. When all you're doing is taking liberties on the Torontos, Minnesotas and Edmontons of the world, you're lucky to even get to the playoffs and then you're overwhelmed if you do make it that far.

Currently a handful of points out of the playoffs, the games to watch for Vancouver in December come against New Jersey, Philadelphia, Washington and Calgary — three of which are on the road — the most important being the Calgary matchup, since inter-divisional and inter-conference points come at a premium.

It goes without saying wins are needed versus Atlanta, Minnesota, Anaheim, Nashville, Phoenix and Atlanta, so it's those statement games Vancouver must start pulling down or else they run the risk of facing a late-season hill too high and slippery to climb.

The Hockey News
thn.com

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 3 Montreal 0
Chicago 4 Columbus 3 (SO)
Los Angeles at Anaheim
Ottawa at San Jose

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 106 Toronto 102
Boston 108 Charlotte 90
Denver 135 Golden State 107
New York 126 Phoenix 99
Miami at Portland.
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	374	162	228	390
2. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	378	162	222	384
3. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	377	163	220	383
3. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	378	179	204	383
5. Rick Kit	ON, CA	376	168	207	375
6. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	375	158	213	371
7. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	367	157	212	369
7. Matty Strathearn	NS, CA	372	161	208	369
7. Tom Collier	NS, CA	375	168	201	369
10. Lorne Willmott	ON, CA	354	163	205	368
11. Cole Warren	NS, CA	379	137	230	367
12. B Fillmore	BC, CA	372	136	228	364
12. Brian B	AB, CA	377	161	203	364
12. Derrick Yee		365	150	214	364
12. Kelly Wrishko	AB, CA	376	154	210	364

* Results exclude Quebec

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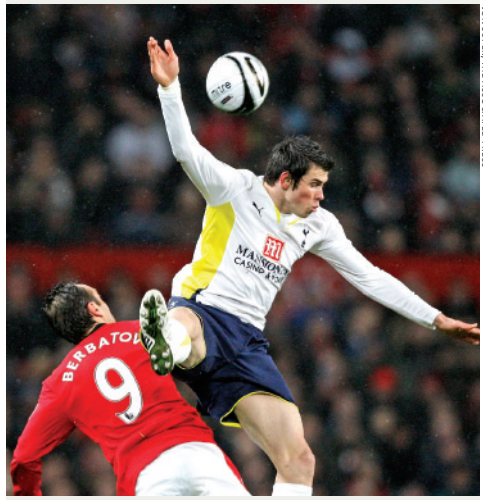
Soccer Man U beats Tottenham



JON SUPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manchester United's Dimitar Berbatov, left, fights for the ball against Tottenham's Gareth Bale at Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester. Manchester United advanced to the Carling Cup semifinals yesterday by beating Tottenham 2-0.

Sports in brief

NHL The NHL board of governors has approved the sale of the Montreal Canadiens to the Molson family. Geoff Molson and his brothers, Andrew and Justin, are the lead investors in a group that is paying a reported $575 million US for the storied franchise. George Gillett put the team up for sale in the spring.

NBA Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers are closer to a reunion. A person with knowledge of the contract talks says the Sixers offered a one-year, non-guaranteed contract to Iverson yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Palin's Going Rogue goes platinum

HarperCollins spokeswoman Tina Andreadis said yesterday that just two weeks after publication, Sarah Palin's memoir has sold one million copies, attaining platinum status. The print run for Going Rogue has been increased to 2.8 million copies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

McCarthy selling typewriter

Writing the next Great American Novel but need a little inspiration? Consider the 1958 Olivetti that Cormac McCarthy used to write his novels, including The Road and No Country for Old Men. Both books were turned into movies. Christie's will auction McCarthy's metal dinosaur Friday and says it could sell for $15,000 to $20,000 US. A blue carrying case and the author's letter of authentication will be included. METRO NEWS SERVICES

30,000 more troops Afghanistan-bound

President Barack Obama ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. troops into Afghanistan yesterday night, but balanced the buildup with a pledge to impatient Americans to begin withdrawing U.S. forces in 18 months.

Obama unveiled his plans in a long-anticipated, high-profile speech broadcast from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in what could become a defining moment of his presidency and a political gamble that may weigh heavily on his chances for a second White House term.

The president said his new policy was designed to "bring this war to a successful conclusion."

Barack Obama

The buildup will begin almost immediately — the first Marines will be in place by Christmas — and will cost $30 billion for the first year alone.

"We must deny al-Qaida a safe haven," Obama said, stating military goals for a war that has dragged on for eight years. "We must reverse the Taliban's momentum ... And we must strengthen the capacity of Afghanistan's security forces and government."

The speech represents the start of a campaign to restore support for the war effort among a public grown pessimistic about success — and among some fellow Democrats in Congress wary of spending billions more dollars and putting tens of thousands more U.S. soldiers and Marines in harm's way.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India **World AIDS Day**

ANUPAM NATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traditional Bihu dancers participate in an event to mark World AIDS Day in Gauhati, India, yesterday. Nearly 2.5 million people in India are infected with HIV, the AIDS virus, but talking about the disease and sexual health issues in general is still largely taboo.

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Injuries consistent with crash: Lawyer

WOODS Tiger Woods did not appear to be driving under the influence and showed no signs of having been in a fight in the minutes after his car crash outside his mansion, a lawyer for the neighbours who dialled 911 said yesterday.

Woods' injuries were "consistent with a car wreck and inconsistent with him being beat up," lawyer Bill Sharpe said. "The scratches on his face were consistent with someone who maybe was in a minor car accident and hit his head on the windshield ... None of his injuries looked like he was beat up by his wife."

In its initial accident report, the Florida Highway Patrol said alcohol was not involved.

$164 fine

- The Florida Highway Patrol says it will issue Woods a careless driving citation in relation to the crash. He faces a $164 fine.

Sharpe said neighbour Linda Adams and her two sons went outside after hearing the crash and Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, who was kneeling beside him, asked them to call 911.

According to the accident report, Woods crashed his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree Friday. Woods' wife told Windermere police she used a golf club to smash the back windows to help him out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mother accidentally smothers baby

FLIGHT A breast-feeding mother accidentally smothered her four-week old child aboard a United Airlines flight from Washington, D.C., to Kuwait, a British tabloid reported yesterday.

The Sun newspaper said that the mother, who it said was a 29-year-old Egyptian-born woman, fell asleep as she breast-fed on the jet and awoke to find that the child had been smothered. The paper said the plane was diverted to London's Heathrow in an attempt to save the baby's life.

> **"The death is being treated as unexplained."**
> Scotland Yard statement

The paper cited an unnamed police source in its reporting.

Scotland Yard confirmed that a United Airlines plane had been diverted to Heathrow in late November after reports that a four-week-old girl was in distress.

The police said in a statement that the baby was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead. It added that an autopsy had been performed, but the results were still pending.

"The death is being treated as unexplained and the Child Abuse Investigation Team is investigating the circumstances," the statement said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

PARIS A French government plan to build a new 80-mile subway system through the Paris suburbs has cleared its first hurdle in parliament. Lawmakers in the National Assembly cleared the plan 299-216 yesterday. The bill must still go to the Senate. The system will connect to the existing subway.

CLEVELAND A registered sex offender attacked 14 women and killed 11 of them, leaving their remains in and around his home, a prosecutor said yesterday in announcing a grand jury indictment against the suspected serial killer, Anthony Sowell, 50.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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"He stole my technique," quips infamous shoe-throwing Iraqi reporter after dodging getting hit himself. Scan this barcode for the full article.

Italian police nab 74 in mafia sting

BUST Italian police have broken up a major mafia clan, arresting 74 people and seizing businesses, land, race horses and an online betting company, officials said yesterday.

Politicians and businessmen in the southern city of Bari were among those implicated in a three-year operation for collaborating with the Parisi clan, police said.

Lt. Col. Salvatore Russo, the police official in charge of the operation, said 74 people were arrested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GM CEO resigns
General Motors Co. CEO Frederick Henderson stepped down yesterday after the board determined that the company wasn't changing quickly enough. Board chair Ed Whitacre is the interim replacement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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US .81¢	US 8.6¢	US $1.09	260.12

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Creston Moly reports wider loss

EXPENSES Creston Moly Corp. reported a widening of its full-year loss yesterday, citing higher expenses due largely to a multimillion-dollar award against the company. For the year end July 31, the miner posted a loss of $5.5 million or four cents a share versus a loss of $3.2 million or three cents a share last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Analysts remain cautiously optimistic for a slow and steady recovery after release of new economic reports. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Paris Deadline day

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman walks past the window of the Lacroix boutique on the Rue Faubourg Saint Honore, in Paris,yesterday. The French commercial court was to decide the fate of the celebrated, but financially ailing, couture house Christian Lacroix, which has apparently failed to find a buyer to save it from bankruptcy.

TSX closes at high for year

Dubai credit concerns diminishing

The Toronto stock market surged to its highest close of the year as worries about Dubai's credit problems receded and American economic reports reinforced the impression a rebound is underway.

The S&P/TSX composite index jumped 260.12 points to 11,707.32.

Investors felt more confident the Dubai debt crisis will be contained, almost a week after the emirate shocked markets when it said its investment arm, Dubai World, wanted to postpone payments on its approximately $60 billion US of debt for at least six months.

New York's Dow Jones industrials rose 126.74 points to 10,471.58, the Nasdaq composite index climbed 31.21 points to 2,175.81 while the S&P 500 index gained 13.23 points to 1,108.86. The Institute for Supply Management's November index on manufacturing activity showed that the sector is still expanding.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Rogers files lawsuit on Bell

ECONOMY Rogers Communications Inc. says it has launched legal action against BCE Inc.'s Bell Canada, the latest twist in a battle over who can claim to have the fastest, largest or most reliable wireless network in Canada.

Rogers filed a claim in B.C. Supreme Court yesterday in an attempt to stop Bell from perpetuating claims that Rogers says are false and misleading.

In the claim, Rogers said Bell cannot promote its network as being the largest, because it is shared with Telus Corp., and that data suggesting Bell is the most reliable and fastest is misleading because it was compiled before the network launched last month.

Rogers' own claims are also being challenged. Telus has won a court order that will force Rogers to remove any advertising that claims it has Canada's most reliable wireless network.

Rogers said it is appealing that ruling.

The court battle between Canada's three national wireless companies comes as competition intensifies and they prepare to fend off a new wave of rivals expected to launch networks next year after buying up wireless spectrum in a federal auction last spring.

Rogers has been ordered to remove all advertisements that claim the Toronto-based company has Canada's most reliable wireless network.

Rogers has already removed such wording from its website and faces a Thursday deadline for the rest.

But Rogers spokeswoman Odette Coleman said yesterday that: "We're going to keep fighting this vigorously, we're going to defend our claim.".

Rogers is due back in court today seeking to appeal the order.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We're going to fight his vigorously, we're going to defend our claim.
Odette Coleman,
Rogers spokesperson

Canadian auto sales jump from last year

ECONOMY Canadian sales for many automakers jumped in November, due in large part to the fact that last November was when the industry — and the economy — collapsed.

But big jumps in car sales numbers weren't due solely to year-over-year comparisons — Toyota and Hyundai both reported record sales for the month of November, a sign that consumers are increasingly willing to spend money on big-ticket items like cars.

Toyota Canada said Tuesday that it sold 14,829 vehicles in November, up 27.4 per cent from a year earlier. This boost was led by truck sales, which were up 54.1 per cent. The luxury Lexus division sold 1,283 vehicles, up 11.4 per cent to its best November on record.

Meanwhile, Hyundai is quickly distinguishing itself as an able competitor with the five companies that traditionally lead the pack in terms of Canadian market share — General Motors, Chrysler, Ford, Honda and Toyota.

Ford — which set itself apart from its North American competitors by neither filing for bankruptcy protection nor asking for government bailout money earlier this year — also saw a positive November, although its sales increase wasn't as dramatic as in previous months.

Ford Canada said its sales were up 7.5 per cent in November, its sixth consecutive month of sales gains.

The vehicles built at Ford's Oakville, Ont., plant — which include the Lincoln MKX, Ford Edge and Ford Flex — saw their sales improve by 25 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

26.2 The percentage Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. reported it was up from a year earlier.

Nokia Siemens says it's willing to pay more for Nortel assets

Nokia Siemens has asked a U.S. bankruptcy court to reject Ciena Corp. as the winning bidder for Nortel Networks' optical networking and carrier Ethernet businesses and suggested it would be willing to pay more — $810 million in cash. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CN makes contract offer to union

Canadian National Railway Co. has conditionally offered to withdraw a contentious work rule change in a "good faith effort" to end a strike by its locomotive engineers.

The railway said it is willing to roll back the monthly mileage cap to its previous level if the union withdraws its own unspecified work-rule demands.

"If they'll drop their work rule changes, we'll drop ours," spokesman Mark Hallman said.

Agreement would allow just the issue of wages and benefits to be sent to binding arbitration.

The railway had previously insisted that all matters in dispute be sent to arbitration.

Officials with the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference, which represents the roughly 1,700 workers, couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

CN says the proposal was part of a "good faith effort to reach a settlement."

"We thought that this was the important good-faith gesture to break the logjam," Hallman added.

The union previously offered to submit the wage portion of the dispute to final arbitration following resolution of other outstanding issues.

The railway's move comes a day after Ottawa introduced back-to-work legislation to end a second CN strike in as many years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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China lifts its ban on pork

TRADE China has reopened its borders to imports of Canadian pork — a possible signal of goodwill as Prime Minister Stephen Harper flies to visit the Asian giant for his first official visit.

The huge Chinese market was closed to Canadian pork products in May after the swine flu virus was found in pigs on an Alberta farm.

China continues to ban live swine imports.

The ban was described as "disappointing and unwarranted" by International Trade Minister Stockwell Day at the time, and public health officials said it had no scientific basis.

Pork

- There is no evidence that consuming pork products can transmit the swine flu, a point Canada has emphasized in negotiations with China over the pork ban.

"This development is important for our trading relationship with China and it shows that they have taken a first step towards recognizing international standards in relation to dealing with H1N1," Day said in a statement yesterday.

"We will continue to work closely with our Chinese counterparts to make sure that trade flows freely between our countries."

Harper left yesterday for Beijing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec rejects N.L.'s request

POWER Quebec is rejecting a request by Newfoundland and Labrador to reopen the Churchill Falls hydroelectric deal.

"The Supreme Court ruled in 1988 in favour of Quebec," Natural Resources Minister Nathalie Normandeau said. "So, for us, there is nothing new."

The head of Newfoundland and Labrador's energy corporation wrote to Hydro-Quebec on Monday, asking it to weigh "good faith" changes to the pricing terms of the contentious 1969 agreement.

Nalcor Energy president Ed Martin said an unforeseeable spike in the value of that power means Quebec is buying Labrador's energy for a small fraction of its real commercial worth. The contract doesn't expire until 2041.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Self-govern or face contentious zoning bylaw, Vancouver warns UBC
Metro Vancouver is warning the University of British Columbia that if it does not take responsibility for its own governance, the city will impose a contentious zoning bylaw, reports the Vancouver Sun. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Downturn hits Alberta trades

Shifting demographics and the recession are affecting staff levels among construction trades, which will likely affect apprenticeship enrolments at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, say industry and school officials. Even as ground clearing is underway for the $445-million Trades and Technology Complex at SAIT, officials say a decline is likely in the number of students applying to trades programs. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

'Tis the season to give back

'Tis the Season

Over the next few weeks Metro's Workology section will be shining a light on some of the jobs that pop up around the holiday season and disappear just as quickly afterwards. Check back every Wednesday.

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

As the holiday season revs up, children's charities swing into gear as well, hoping to provide toys, hope and a lot of joy to kids in the greatest need.

Across Canada, the Children's Wish Foundation takes aim at making kids' dreams literally come true by fulfilling their personal wishes, no matter what they may be. The organization works with donors, and volunteers to fulfill requests from eligible kids between the ages of three and 17 who are diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses.

Paul St-Germain, a director at the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, says that after 25 years of fulfilling wishes for children, the people involved with Children's Wish know one thing is for certain: Kids' wish requests are as creative and varied as they are.

Disney World visits and celebrity meet-ups top the list, such as the case of one girl with Leukemia who wanted to meet Robin Williams — she did, handing him a hand-drawn collage of all the animated characters he's ever voiced while Williams spent the day with her in between film takes.

From one girl in Manitoba who dreamed of having her own white horse to a young boy on the East Coast who's only wish was to have his grandparents be able to move closer to him from Edmonton, kids have come up with some real doozies and Children's Wish has made sure to follow through.

"Each wish is as unique as the child who wishes it — no two wishes are the same. We're dedicated to working within the community to let children with life threatening illnesses to realize their most heartfelt wish," St-Germain said.

The organization fills about 900 wish requests each year across Canada and St-Germain says the joy a fulfilled wish brings affects not only the kids and their families but the volunteers and donors who make it all possible as well.

"The benefit is almost immeasurable. (A fulfilled wish) helps not only the children cope with the illness but the family as a whole to reconnect and focus on something other than the illness. It's life-changing both for the children and families and the people who participate in doing it," St-Germain said.

For kids whose families are enduring hard times, joys of the toy variety can be few and far between and toy drives throughout the country try to provide kids with a little bit of playtime.

In Toronto, the Salvation Army and CTV Toronto's annual Toy Mountain campaign has been a staple for 14 years and this year hopes to top 110,000 donated toys. Reaching the goal would mean filling an entire warehouse almost to the roof with toys and John Murray, spokesperson for the Salvation Army, says seeing last year's finished mountain — the organization's best-ever haul of more than 100,000 toys — was an amazing experience.

"It's tremendously rewarding to be able to know you're providing a sense of joy to kids — it's incredible," Murray said.

Similar toy drives are supported by the Salvation Army throughout the country and Murray says anyone can have a hand in making a child's Christmas a happy one.

"We're dedicated to working within the community to let children with life threatening illnesses to realize their most heartfelt wish."
Children's Wish Foundation's Paul St-Germain

How to help

- To help contribute toys or volunteer with the Salvation Army, visit salvationarmy.ca or call 1-800-SALARMY.
- To help make a child's wish come true with the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, visit catalogueofwishes.ca to view a virtual catalogue of wishes and help contribute things or help volunteer.

Last year, the Salvation Army of Toronto collected more than 100,000 toys for disadvantaged children. They are aiming for more than 110,000 this year.

Workology in brief

FORMER MP NAMED INTERIM UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT: New Brunswick's St. Thomas University's board of governors has appointed Dennis Cochrane as the institution's interim president and vice-chancellor, effective January 2010. A graduate of the University of New Brunswick and the Université de Moncton, Cochrane was mayor of Moncton from 1979-83, and an MP from 1984-88. He was elected leader of N.B.'s PC party in 1991 and was an MLA, roles he served in until 1995. Cochrane has also served as the deputy minister of education in N.B. and Nova Scotia. Cochrane succeeds Michael Higgins, who announced his resignation in August.
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Holland College launches 'Learning. For Life' capital campaign
On Friday, Holland College, located in Prince Edward Island, kicked off its multimillion-dollar Learning. For Life- capital campaign, the most ambitious fundraising effort in the college's 40-year history. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ryerson nabs top architect

MAT LECOMPTE
for Metro Canada

In the past when talking about the globes' unique urban playgrounds, known for cutting-edge design and breathtaking architecture, the name "Toronto" wasn't exactly a city that came to mind.

"I like to be part of something that's growing and turning into something new."
Architect
Will Alsop

Through the past couple of years, however, Toronto's gone through a bit of a facelift. The Frank Gehry designed Art Gallery of Ontario and the new façade of the Royal Ontario Museum have helped to give an identifiable face to the city. Whether or not people associate these new looks with beauty is up for discussion, but one thing is clear: The city is making an effort to boost its architectural profile.

Now, as we enter 2010, Ryerson University has taken the next step by naming award-winning and internationally known architect Will Alsop as a Visiting Practitioner.

Alsop, regarded as one of the most prominent United Kingdom architects, is best known for his avante-garde and modernist style. He was the mind behind the award-winning Sharp Centre for Design at the Ontario College of Art and Design, and is working on a number of other innovative projects across the globe.

"When I first came here in 2000 to interview for the OCAD project, I didn't like it. In fact, I was glad to leave after two or three days," he said. "It didn't strike me as a great place, initially."

He liked the people, he said, but the architecture and appearance of the city left much to be desired.

"I thought it didn't have a sense of itself. Architecturally, it didn't seem to have any real ambition," he said. "In a way, that was true because the city has changed dramatically since then."

It is this change and progress that has drawn Alsop to the city, and now, to Ryerson. He told Metro that some would argue, rightly or wrongly, that Ryerson's Department of Architectural Science is an underdog. However, he thinks the tools are there to grow the department into an internationally renowned program.

"I like to be part of something that's growing and turning into something new, rather than being at one of the other established universities."

Kendra Schank Smith, Chair of the department, says students and faculty alike are quite excited to have a mind like Alsop's on board.

"It's very prestigious and exciting," she said. "It's very important because he brings a lot of ideas and enthusiasm."

Alsop views Toronto as a place with plenty of unique opportunities for architects, and those who are training and residing here have the power to transform the urban landscape.

As opposed to a beautiful city like Paris, he said, that doesn't leave much room for improvement, Toronto is a city offering all kinds of room for new, ambitious work.

Toronto's key challenges, he says, are to focus on creating better uses of public space, reducing traffic, making streets more walkable and, for the most part, encouraging people towards a more community-based, street life.

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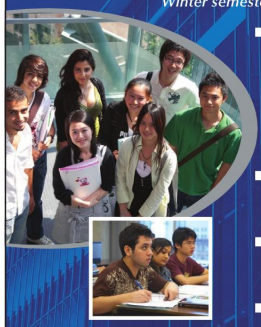

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See some bullying in the Den

Dragons' Den
Dianne Buckner
metronews.ca/dragonsden

Claire Copp stands up to one of the Dragons in tonight's episode of Dragons' Den on CBC.

It takes two to tango. And you could say the same about workplace bullying. There has to be a bully, someone using their power or personality to intimidate a co-worker or subordinate — but there also has to be a 'victim' to accept that unfair treatment.

I found myself thinking about this after seeing tonight's episode of Dragons' Den. A woman gets flamed by the Dragons, and it reminded me of the time a pitcher complained to me that she felt she'd been bullied in the Den.

It's true that the Dragons are rich and powerful, and that they are sometimes very critical of the entrepreneurs who are asking for investment — but who wouldn't ask plenty of tough questions when asked to hand over hundreds of thousands of dollars? It's the Dragons' own money these people want.

Even so, sometimes, it's difficult to watch rookies go head-to-head with true pros. The powerful vs. powerless dynamic can appear to be akin to bullying.

But who is truly powerless? Tonight Claire Copp from Abbotsford, B.C., stands up to Kevin O'Leary as he attacks her business plan. ("Ooh, I like her now," says Dragon Robert Herjavec, in praise of her spirit). Randy Thompson of Victoria, B.C. fought fire with fire earlier in the season, calling Kevin a variety of nasty names when he criticized Randy's board game.

Anyone can do that — the show has no rules about how the Dragons and pitchers have to interact.

But it's not easy to take on someone who seems bigger and stronger. And sadly when it comes to the workplace, bullying isn't uncommon.

Most experts advise people with bullying colleagues to consult a trusted mentor. Often someone older and more experienced can offer ideas about how to react in tense situations.

If confrontation feels too dangerous or distressing, and if you work in company with a Human Resources department, someone there may be able to intervene on your behalf, and mediate.

In any work environment though, the key is to recognize that you are a valuable contributor, and that no one has a right to intimidate you. If you can draw on the strength of that knowledge, you can simply refuse to be drawn into a bullying scenario.

It takes two, after all.

Dianne Buckner is the host of Dragons' Den and the weekend anchor on the CBC News Network. Watch Dragons' Den at 8 p.m. tonight on CBC.

Workology in brief

COLLEGES GET FUNDS: On Friday, the federal government announced $20.1 million in funding from the College and Community Innovation Program for projects at Fanshawe, Algonquin College, Red River College, Seneca, SAIT, among others. Launched in 2007, the CCI Program supports colleges and CEGEPs to foster research transfer activities in their communities through partnerships with local companies.

ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND FOR WIND TURBINE AND TRADES TRAINING FACILITY: On Friday, St. Lawrence College held a groundbreaking ceremony at its Kingston, Ont., campus for the Wind Turbine and Trades Training Facility, which will provide an innovative learning environment for students in the college's Wind Turbine Technician program, among others.

HUMBER C.S.I.?: Humber College celebrated the opening of its new Centre for Justice Leadership at its Lakeshore campus. The 180,000-square-foot "CSI" centre features a crime scene investigation studio, evidence processing studio, interview rooms, and leading-edge forensic equipment.

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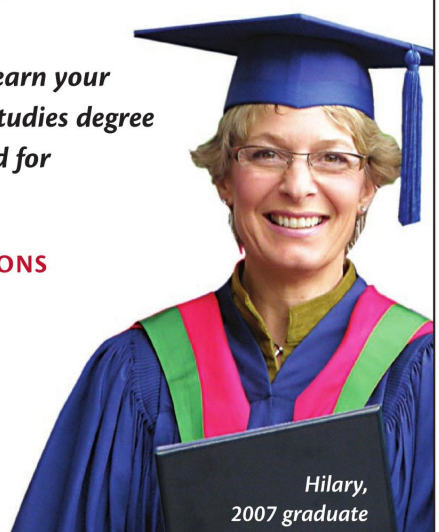

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Metro Drive

Things of beauty

Award-winning car writer and design critic Stephen Bayley explores the 86 most beautiful cars ever produced in his latest book Cars: Freedom, Style, Sex, Power, Motion, Colour, Everything. The jaw-dropping black-and-white photos of the cars are alone worth the hefty $80 price tag. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Five-door Vibe holds wide appeal

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

MODEL: 2003 to 2008 Pontiac Vibe
VEHICLE TYPE: five-door
APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE: $5,000 to $15,500

HISTORY/DESCRIPTION: The Vibe went on sale as a 2003 model and competed with cars like the Subaru Impreza, Dodge Caliber and Mazda3 Sport. It was a success for Pontiac, thanks mainly to generous utility, economical operation and youthful, distinctive styling. Vibe was a five-door liftback, so it's often described by the words "wagon," "hatchback" or even "crossover." Part of the Vibe's success came from Pontiac's 'something for everyone' approach to models and equipment. Several four-cylinder engines were available with between 126 and 180 horsepower, and Vibe could be had with either a manual or automatic gearbox, too.

Second Gear

WHAT OWNERS LIKE: Space, ease of access and driving dynamics were the most well-loved Vibe attributes reported by owners. Flexibility was another major plus, and many also reported low maintenance costs and reasonable fuel costs, too.

WHAT OWNERS HATE: The Vibe owner gripe list is a relatively minor one. Complaints include rear-seat comfort, an awkward rear cargo cover, and quick wear of the factory tires. Finally, though most owners appreciate the low fuel consumption, some do wish for more passing and merging power.

THE VERDICT: If the used Vibe you're considering is well priced and doesn't exhibit any potential transmission issues, you'll likely enjoy its flexibility, uniqueness and energetic styling for years to come.

The five-door Pontiac Vibe first went on sale in 2003.

The ZDX is built in Alliston, Ont., along side the Acura MDX, from which it gets its platform and most mechanicals.

Acura ZDX: Road thrill

PETER BLEAKNEY
for Metro Canada

This month, Acura is launching its bravely styled new brand leader, the 2010 ZDX crossover. Like the BMW X6, this similarly profiled soft-roader unabashedly advertises its form over function. Unlike the four place Bimmer, the ZDX will seat five, but it doesn't have as much cargo capacity as the compact Honda Fit.

Fine. So Acura's new luxury crossover will be an emotional, right brain purchase. In that context, it's a pretty cool rig.

Acura's new grinning metallic grill looks most at home here, parked on the front of this intriguing wedge with the origami edges and all-glass roof. With "hidden" rear door handles and an extreme fast-back profile, it tricks the eye into thinking it's a two-door vehicle.

The ZDX is built in Alliston, Ont., along side the Acura MDX, from which it gets its platform and most mechanicals.

Motivation comes from the MDX's 300 hp 270 lb-ft 3.7L SOHC V6 hooked to an all-new six-speed auto with paddle shifters. It also shares the MDX's SH-AWD (super handling all wheel drive) with torque vectoring rear differential that overdrives the outside rear wheel when cornering.

The Acura MDX is certainly one of the more athletic full-sized SUVs, so it's no surprise the ZDX takes this altheticism a step further with its lower centre of gravity and reduced curb weight.

Over the twisty canyon roads of our test loop, this four-door SUV/CUV coupe thingy never put a wheel wrong.

While you can't feel the active diff working, you know it is because of the ZDX's quick turn in and fluidity through the bends. Suspension tuning finds a good balance between body control and comfort and the hydraulic steering has good feel

The ZDX's interior is the nicest effort I've seen from this company, featuring an organic flow of concave and convex curves and top-shelf materials. Hand-sewn full-grain leather covers the lower sweep of the dash, door panels and seats.

Standard is a three-view rear view camera, powered tailgate, heated rear seats and headlight washers. The cabin is quieted by cancelling frequencies sent forth from the audio system.

The interior of the 2010 Acura ZDX features an organic flow of curves and top-shelf materials.

2010 Acura ZDX

Type: Luxury crossover
Price: from $55,990
Engine: 3.7L SOHC V6
HP: 300
Torque: 270 lb-ft

Highlights

- Athletic performance
- Impressive interior
- Built in Canada

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Go green this holiday

If you want to be green this holiday, take the bus or train, but if you must fly, stick with economy seating, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. UCS researchers compared trips by car, plane, train and bus to find out which transportation choices generate the fewest emissions. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

A place to put up your paws and relax

Furry travellers now have a place to stretch their legs at Atlanta's airport. A new fenced-in dog park is part of the ground transportation centre on the west end of the passenger terminal at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The 93-square-metre park, which opened last month, can accommodate two pooches at a time and features flowers, grass, rocks, benches and two original pieces of art. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

One glass at a time in Ireland

Guinness may be what it's known for, but the island offers plenty more to explore for travellers

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

Sandwiched between the Atlantic Ocean to the West, and the United Kingdom to the East, Ireland is a very special place to take a holiday.

The spectacular landscape, which ranges from the jagged mountains and sandy pearl beaches of the coast to the emerald inland vegetation and its fantastically friendly people, are part of what make Ireland one of Europe's most beautiful islands. Here's the top five must see and do's.

Oysters in Galway

Situated on the west coast Ireland, Galway is home to the world's tastiest aphrodisiac — the oyster. The Irish equivalent to sushi and champagne, little beats a night of cracking open fresh oysters followed by a pint of creamy Guinness.

The best place in the area is Kelly Galway's oysters in Kilcolgan (kellyoysters.com)

METRO WORLD NEWS

Ireland offers many locations that are perfect for day-trip adventures.

Horseriding in Connemara

Connemara's striking landscape of rugged mountains, cobalt blue sea and jade green esplanades is best admired on horseback. Trot or gallop your way along the Connemara Trail (connemaratrail.com), which follows the ebb and flow of the Atlantic Ocean.

Guinness in Dublin

The main factory of Ireland's pride and joy — the Guinness Storehouse (guinness-storehouse.com) in Dublin provides a good starting point to a cheerful holiday.

A visit covers the basics of stout beer making followed by the serious task of tasting. Dublin alone is worth putting your pint down for.

METRO WORLD NEWS

You can visit the main Guinness factory in Dublin for a tasting.

Gaelic paradise in Donegal

Thanks to the feisty waves coming in from the Atlantic Ocean and beautiful stretches of beach, the areas around Donegal are ideal for water sports. Bundoran is a gem for those seeking great surfing. Whilst not exactly your typical 'surfer's paradise', the mystical atmosphere, amazing wave and swell quality and reefs all add up to create the perfect surf stop.

Gaelic culture in the Aran Islands

The Aran Islands, clustered at the mouth of Galway Bay are an ideal day trip there is a frequent — and pleasant- shuttle service by ferry departing from Rossaveal Harbour. The three islands — Inish Mor, Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr are "Gaeltachts" (Irish-speaking) and strongly instilled with Irish culture. The largest, Inish Mor, is peppered with historical monuments dating back to the Bronze Age and Inis Meáin is where the famous wooly Aran Jumpers are produced.

*Advance purchase required. For details, please visit greyhound.ca or call 1-800-661-TRIP. New bus design shown here is currently only available on select routes. Restrictions may apply. © 2009 Greyhound Canada Transportation ULC.

Travel in brief

WISCONSIN The governor's mansion in Maple Bluff, Wisc. will be open to the public seven days in December for holiday tours. The first 30-minute tours are Dec. 9 and they end Dec. 19. Each tour includes a brief history of the executive residence, which is decorated with six Wisconsin-themed trees. One is a tribute to the troops, another showcases the state's biotech companies and another highlights family farms. Another represents Nigerian heritage in Wisconsin, one celebrates the diversity of the state's 72 counties and another features ornaments made by fourth graders based on their favourite holiday movies. While the tours are free, participants are asked to donate a children's book which will be distributed to literacy organizations. Direct flights to the region are available from most major airports. Governor Jim Doyle's family will not be at home during the tours but Doyle will be there to discuss the home and life with attendees.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Six Flags buys Kiddieland rollercoaster
Weeks after Kiddieland Amusement Park closed in suburban Chicago, Six Flags Great America has bought its famed wooden roller coaster — The Little Dipper. Six Flags paid $33,000 for the roller coaster that had been at Kiddieland since 1950. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Discover Obama's 'lost years'

New York walk tour shows where the U.S. president cut his teeth

Jeremiah Miller calls the time Barack Obama spent in New York "the lost years," because that period from 1981 to 1985 is not as well-known as his roots in Hawaii or his recent years in Chicago. To fill in the gap, Miller offers a tour of Upper Manhattan called "Obama's New York."

The two-hour $25 walking tour includes stops at Columbia University, a Harlem subway station, and the street where the man who now sleeps in the White House once slept in an alley.

"I became intrigued by the fact that not much is known about his life during this period, but this was a pivotal time for him," said Miller.

"He was searching for himself. He felt he didn't fit in. That's why he came to New York — to find community."

Obama completed his college degree at Columbia University in 1983, having transferred there as a junior from Occidental College in Los Angeles. After college, he worked in Harlem for the New York Public Interest Research Group, a job that led to community organizing in Chicago.

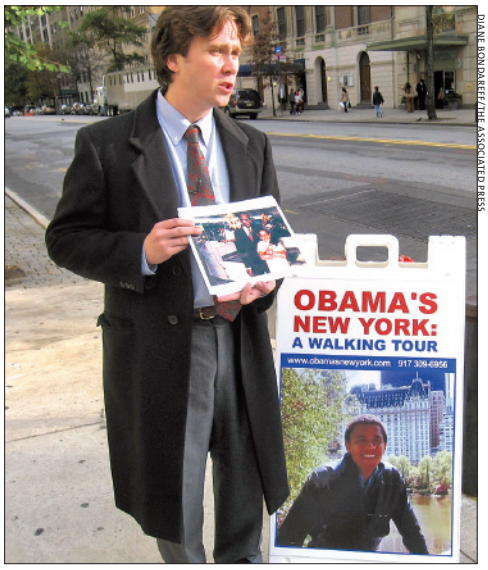
Obama even opens his memoir, Dreams from My Father, with a scene in New York.

It was the day he got the news that his Kenyan father was dead. Miller pauses on a sidewalk while leading the tour to narrate that dramatic opening passage from the book, as he reads aloud Obama's recollection of the phone call from a relative in Kenya:

"'Can you hear me? I say, your father is dead.' ... That was all, the line cut off, and I sat down on the couch, smelling eggs burn in the kitchen, staring at cracks in the plaster, trying to measure my loss."

Miller reads another passage from the memoir while standing on 109th Street near Amsterdam Avenue, where, Obama wrote, "I spent my first night in Manhattan curled up in an alleyway."

He was supposed to stay in an apartment at 142 W. 109th St., and eventually he did move in, but nobody was home when he arrived.



DIANE BONDAREFF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Obama walking tour takes tourists through the places that shaped the U.S. President's intellectual roots.

"It was where Barry the boy became Barack the man...He may not have found his community, but he did find himself."
Jeremiah Miller

After several other stops, the tour ends by hopping on the No. 1 train and heading uptown to City College in Harlem.

Here Obama worked for NYPIRG, organizing students on issues like recycling.

He also lobbied to have the 137th Street subway station cleaned up.

Miller contends that the time Obama spent in New York put the future president on a path of activism and community service that eventually led to the White House.

"It was where Barry the boy became Barack the man," Miller said. "He may not have found his community, but he did find himself." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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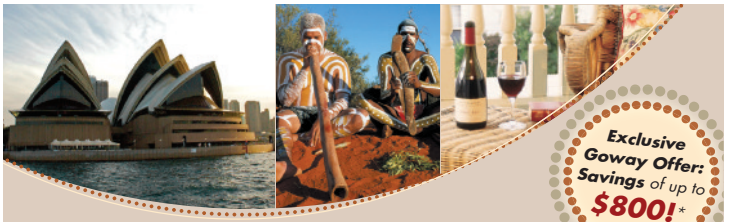
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Suri likes high heels

Katie Holmes doesn't think there's anything wrong with dressing her three-year-old daughter Suri in high heels. "Like every little girl, she loves my high heels," she tells Access Hollywood. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

New comedy

Nicole Richie is to become a comedy star. The socialite has teamed up with US TV network ABC to create a new comedy show, in which she will also star. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Keys launches contest to take fans on trip to Africa

Alicia Keys says her first visit to Africa was so emotional and inspiring that she is ready to take others there to experience something similar.

The Grammy-winning singer is launching a contest through her charity, Keep a Child Alive, that will give five people an opportunity to visit the continent with her. She says her initial trip to Africa "totally changed my life."

"Going to Africa was unbelievable for me," the 28-year-old said.

"I was able to see the great separation between have and have not," Keys said. "I was able to see the incredible spirit of people. I was able to learn first-hand about the AIDS pandemic of Africa."

Fans will be able to enter the contest online at the foundation's website, or by sending a text. The fee for the text is $5, but it will be donated to Keep a Child Alive. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Armed to the teeth

Swollen Members help bandmate overcome addiction

KAREN BLISS
for Metro Canada

There was a time Vancouver's Swollen Members was ubiquitous, touring non-stop behind a prolific output of material, and taking home three consecutive Juno Awards for best rap recording from 2001 to 2003. The group's fourth win would come in 2007 for their album, Black Magic, but behind the scenes things were grim.

Swollen Members are touring in support of latest album Armed To The Teeth.

Like an episode of A&E's addiction reality show Intervention, rapper Prevail and DJ/producer Rob The Viking worried and took steps to help their bandmate, rapper Mad Child, who escalated from a Percocet addiction to Oxycontin, as many as 20 80-mg a day — the equivalent of 320 Percocet, Mad Child puts in perspective.

It is nothing short of a miracle that Swollen Members have returned intact — with a fourth member no less, singer/rapper Tre Nyce — and with an impressive new album, Armed To The Teeth.

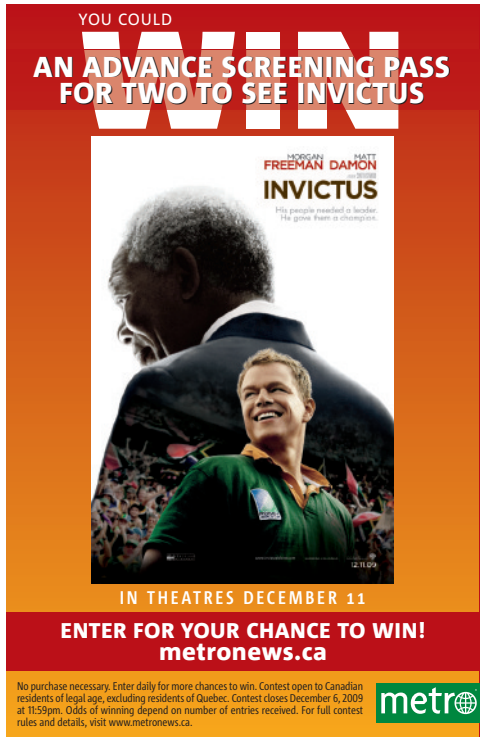
When Prevail finally clued into what his longtime friend and musical partner had got himself into the past two years, he says, "I was talking to (real name) Shane's parents quite frequently, letting them know what was going on ... We wanted to keep each other informed.

Mad Child, whose struggle can be heard throughout Armed To The Teeth, particularly on the detailed track My Life, after several tries at rehab got clean six months ago with the help of a drug prescribed by his family doctor called Suboxone, an opioid medication to treat people addicted to illicit opiates.

"That's an important thing that I want to let people know about, that you can go on Suboxone and get off this s—. It is a miracle drug," says Mad Child.

Mad Child has no second thoughts about being so public about his addiction.

"I definitely want to be able to talk to kids," he says. "The reason I'm so open about it is I put a couple of songs out on MySpace on my own little page before the album dropped and I got an overwhelming response from kids or young adults that were like 'Yo, I'm going through the same s— and this really helps me.'"



Mellencamp's son starts anti-smoking page for dad
John Mellencamp's 14-year-old son has started a campaign on Facebook that he hopes will get his rocker dad to quit smoking. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cadence is Coupland's weapon

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

A Nova Scotia family, guilt-ridden middle-aged woman, three Chinese Canadian siblings coming of age, a trio of wanderers in Montréal and an entire generation are set to face off in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's ninth annual Canada Reads competition.

The war of words unfolds between March 8 and 12, 2010, on CBC Radio One and digital television channel Bold. It pits five Canadians against one another to defend a book of their choice as, one-by-one, defenders and their books are ousted by fellow panelists until just one remains.

Winning can trigger the "Canada Reads effect," a pass to the top of best-selling book lists and other opportunities, explained competition host Jian Ghomeshi. Moderating the debate for his third consecutive year, the host of CBC Radio arts and culture magazine Q revealed the defenders and authors during a press conference yesterday at CBC's Toronto headquarters.

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO
Douglas Coupland's novel, Generation X, is taking part in CBC's Canada Reads contest.

Although they'd never met before yesterday, Edmonton poet laureate Rollie Pemberton (a.k.a. rapper Cadence Weapon) and Vancouver author Douglas Coupland developed instant rapport, often turning questions asked by media into one-on-one conversations.

Pemberton is defending Coupland's debut novel Generation X, a framed narrative that relates stories of three traveling post-baby boomers to modern culture.

"It's the one I instantly thought of if I could represent a book, and a book I felt was thematically similar to things I've written and believe," said Pemberton.

To Coupland, his nomination by Pemberton, just 24, is an indication Generation X itself speaks across generations. "It's not a snapshot or even time capsule of 1989/1990," he said, "It's something eternal that's going on inside the book."

Although he considers Pemberton's gesture "deeply satisfying", Coupland said he won't listen to the program, deeming it too psychologically distancing.

"For me, one of the creepiest things on earth would be having a tape recorder at a dinner party and listening to people's conversations as they leave: 'Ugh, what's with his hair… the way he talks… the way he chews his canapé'," he said.

Pemberton said he understands Coupland's hesitation, but won't tear apart competing books in order to win. "I will talk about why I like my book, but I'm not going to do it in the context of, 'My book is better than yours because this'," he said.

Hurt Locker wins best feature

GOTHAM AWARDS The Hurt Locker has won for best feature at the 19th annual Gotham Independent Film Awards.

The award for Kathryn Bigelow's film about a bomb squad in Iraq was presented Monday evening at a ceremony in New York. The film also won for best ensemble performance.

The Gotham awards also named the movie Food, Inc. as the best documentary. Robert Siegel, the writer-director of Big Fan, won for breakthrough director.

Catalina Saavedra won the breakthrough actor award for her performance in The Maid. And You Won't Miss Me was chosen as the best film not playing at a theatre near you.

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VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (N) (CC)		Stars on Ice: On the Edge (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	9 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	So You Think You Can Dance		Law & Order: SVU		(:02) Criminal Minds (CC)		News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	The Practice "Marooned"		Third Watch (CC)		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (N) (CC)		Glee "Mattress" (N) (CC)		Melrose Place "June" (N)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N) (CC)	Old Christine	The Middle	The Vampire Diaries (CC)		(:01) Eastwick (N) (CC)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Ted Rogers	The Office	Mercy (CC)		Family	Cougar Town	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Gossip Girl (CC)		The Vampire Diaries (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	News Special	Entertainment	Rudolph, the Reindeer		Grammy Nominations Concert		(:02) Criminal Minds (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Christmas-Rockefeller		Law & Order: SVU		The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama) Amber Benson.				Home by Christmas (2006) Linda Hamilton.		
	288	380	24 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Family	The Middle	Family	Cougar Town	(:01) Eastwick (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	28 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	All About the Benjamins ★★ (2002) Ice Cube, Mike Epps.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Celtic Woman: Songs From the Heart				David Garrett: Live in Berlin (CC)			Rick Steves' Europe (CC)	
	290	382	23 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	So You Think You Can Dance		Glee "Mattress" (N) (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	Playing for Change: Peace		Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s (CC)				The Brain Fitness Program		
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Net Millions	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (CC)		The Vampire Diaries (CC)		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	28 NW	Planet Earth "Shallow Seas"		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Planet Earth "Shallow Seas"		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Air Racing	UEFA Champ.	Hockey	MMA Conn	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	SportsCentre	Off the Record	World Poker Tour		E:60 (CC)		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	(6:30) Court Surfing		Score Now		Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	Pass Time	Dangerous Drives		Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Toronto FC	Foot Brazil	Premier	Ftbl Today	Gol TV News	Foot Brazil	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Chicken
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	The Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Arctic Mission: Lords		Mao: A Chinese Tale (CC)		Sacred Music (CC)		Sacred Music (CC)		Lonely Boy (N)
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	570	580	42 MM	To Be Announced		disBAND	Love Court	America's Best Dance Crew		My Date	Video on Trial	Spotlight
	600	564	48 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Unsellable	Intervention	Property	Unsellable	House
	615	520	61 A&E	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		(:01) Dog the Bounty Hunter		Steven Seagal
	628	584	62 SPKE	(6:00) The Ultimate Fighter (N)		The Ultimate Fighter				CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Trek: Voyager
	521	560	64 TLC	Pregnant	I Didn't Know	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Dress	Dress	Pregnant	I Didn't Know	Little Couple
	616	522	63 SHO	The Outer Limits "The Heist"		The Guard (CC)		Cra$h & Burn "Freedom"		Bones (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	White Collar "The Portrait"		Law & Order "Volunteers"		Without a Trace (CC)		White Collar "The Portrait"		Entourage
	601	562	41 SLC	In Laws	In Laws	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out (CC)		Celebrity Paranormal Project		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Crash Course" (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday "Crash Course"		Mighty Ships "Maersk" (CC)		Mega Builders
	522	506	44 HIS	Ice Pilots NWT (N) (CC)		Life After People "Outbreak"		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ice Pilots NWT (CC)		Outlaw Bikers
	627	528	45 SPC	Supernatural (CC)		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	47 TBS	House-Payne	Meet-Browns	Lopez Tonight (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	King	King	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	What	Family Guy	King	King
	603	561	52 FN	Chopped "Prickly Situation"		Ultimate Wedding Cakes		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Chopped "Prickly Situation"		Diner, Drive-In
	-	-	53 AMC	(:15) National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ★★ (1989) Chevy Chase.					Young Frankenstein ★★★★ (1974) Gene Wilder. (CC)			
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Michael	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) Wild Cherry (2009) (CC)		The National Tree (2009) Andrew McCarthy.			Rush Hour 3 ★ (2007) Jackie Chan. (CC)			(:15) Revolver
	581	566	101 MTV	Teen Mom Launch Special		MTV Live	Sex News	16 and Pregnant Adoption.		Teen Mom Launch Special		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Unscripted (N)	Driven-Vision	Poltergeist: The Legacy		Chances Are ★★ (1989) Cybill Shepherd, Ryan O'Neal. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

critics' corner

Supernatural
In hopes of defeating Lucifer, Castiel (Misha Collins) decides to search for God — which, under the circumstances, would seem to be the kind of no-brainer that would have dawned on someone before now. Bobby's (Jim Beaver) friend Rufus (guest star Steven Williams) begs for help when demons attack his town, but Sam and Dean (Jared Padalecki, Jensen Ackles) discover the "demons" are mass hallucinations in "Good God, Y'all." 7 PM on SPC

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
"I'm cuuute! She said I'm cuuute!" "Bumbles bounce!" "I wanna be a dentist." And of course, "Rudolph with your nose so bright, won't you guide my sleigh tonight?" Ol' Rudy is 45 this year and as cute as ever, ready to delight the children and grandbabies of the viewers who met him back in '64. If you haven't seen this Christmas chestnut in a few years, it's always worth another look. 8 PM on CBS

So if we take long walks, we'll look like Heidi?

Heidi Klum lost her pregnancy weight thanks to her baby, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She modelled for Victoria's Secret six weeks after giving birth to her fourth child, and credits taking long walks with the infant for helping her shed the excess pounds. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Russ meets Katy's preacher parents

BUT SERIOUSLY, WHAT GUY WOULD THEY APPROVE OF? Katy Perry has reportedly introduced bad-boy boyfriend Russell Brand to her parents — who just happen to be pastors. "Russell must go towards the light and not toward the darkness," Perry's mother, Mary Hudson, says, according to Hollyscoop. "Only God can take the very worst person and turn them around for good." Brand and Perry's father also exchanged copies of their respective books, even though Brand's book is about his previous experiences as a drug addict. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

David Spade doesn't get movies like other people do, Demi Moore is staying in tonight, Rob Thomas has really interesting errands to run, and Ice-T is dealing with some anger issues.

@davidspade
just saw 'The road' . hilarious. wall to wall laughs. they will def make this into a sitcom

@mrskutcher
Oh my a new season of Hoarders is on tonight!!!

@ThisIsRobThomas
going into the city today for new tattoos!

@FINALLEVEL
MAN I miss being able to punch suckas in the grill without gettin sued!!

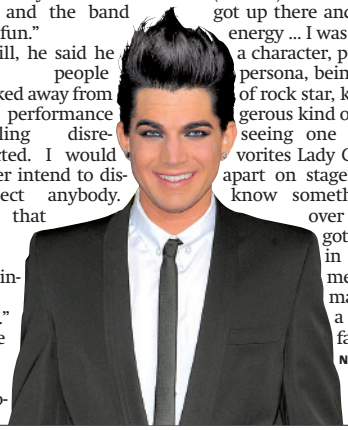
METRO WORLD NEWS

Adam's dad thinks he should say sorry

TRANSLATION: THERE'S STILL TIME FOR YOU TO GET A LAW DEGREE, SON Among the people who weren't thrilled with Adam's Lambert's controversial American Music Awards performance: His dad, usmagazine.com reports. "My dad was like, 'Maybe you should apologize, Adam,'" he said on The Ellen DeGeneres Show yesterday. "I was like, 'You know, dad, I don't feel like I did anything wrong. It just wasn't maybe the right judgment call. It's a taste thing more than an obscenity thing. I think it's just a taste level.'"

During his performance, he smooched another guy, simulated oral sex and flipped off the audience, Looking back, "maybe that wasn't the best first impression to make again," Lambert, 27, says. "I mean, I had fun up there, I had a good time, my dancers had fun and the band had fun."

Still, he said he felt people walked away from his performance "feeling disrespected. I would never intend to disrespect anybody. So that was not my intention." He said that "people aren't used to seeing gay men portrayed that way on TV. The gay male image in the media tends to be very (clichéd) and safe ... I think I got up there and put more energy ... I was putting on a character, putting on a persona, being this kind of rock star, kind of dangerous kind of guy. After seeing one of my favorites Lady Gaga tear it apart on stage ... I don't know something came over me, and I got caught up in the moment and maybe went a little too far." METRO NEWS SERVICES



Taylor's jealous of Leighton

PLEASE LET THIS COME TO BLOWS A rivalry is reportedly brewing on the set of Gossip Girl over two of the show's stars' musical ambitions. Taylor Momsen is said to be upset that the show has thrown its support behind co-star Leighton Meester's singing career instead of hers. "Taylor is not happy that Gossip Girl has been playing Leighton's music on the show, and they have never asked to play any of her songs," a source tells HollywoodLife.com. "It's creating a lot of tension on set." When pressed for comment, a rep for the show's network, the CW, doesn't mince words: "The show will support Taylor and her music when the time is right, but her music is not ready yet." METRO WORLD NEWS

Nick will tour without brothers

HE'LL BE EASIER PREY FOR THE COUGARS Nick Jonas is going on tour without his brothers, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 17-year-old Jonas Brothers singer will play concerts across the U.S. next month with his side project The Administration after their debut at the Grammy nominations concert tonight. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lady Gaga learns to embrace her 'darkness'

MAYBE HER MUSIC WILL IMPROVE Lady Gaga struggles to cope with feeling low while out on the road but has now learned to accept her "darkness."

"The lowest point is loneliness, being on the road. I have a chronic sadness that recurs," she said. "The lowest point was in Australia in May. I was overwhelmingly sad, and I didn't know why because I had all these things to be happy about." Despite her black moods, the singer says her emotional state inspired her to write her best ever material. She added: "I went to the studio and played for hours and I wrote what is going to be the greatest record of my career, a beautiful song about my father. "I remember watching the mascara tears flood the ivories and I thought, 'It's OK to be said.' I've learned to love my darkness." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Britney, Jason aren't engaged

WE LIKED HER BETTER WHEN SHE BEHAVED BADLY Britney Spears isn't getting married again, but she's still happily together with former agent Jason Trawick, according to The Insider. Rumours surfaced last month that Spears had popped the question in Australia and Trawick had turned her down, hightailing it back to L.A. "There was no proposal and they were never engaged," a source says. "Jason spent more time in Australia than originally planned. They are very happy." METRO WORLD NEWS

Pete apologizes for anthem gaffe

CAN ANYONE EXPLAIN WHY KATE MOSS DATED THIS GUY? Pete Doherty has apologized for upsetting a crowd in Munich by singing a defunct verse of the German national anthem that hasn't been used since the fall of the Third Reich, according to the BBC. "Pete himself is from Jewish descent and has fought against racism and fascism with numerous organizations," a spokesperson for the troubles singer says. Doherty was booed after singing, "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles," and was escorted off stage shortly after. His spokesperson claims he had been "unaware of the controversy" connected to the verse. METRO WORLD NEWS

Gere could be fined for cutting trees

NATURE HATER Richard Gere may be facing $50,000 US in fines for cutting down a clutch of trees on his Pound Ridge, N.Y., property without obtaining a permit first, according to the local Bedford Record-Review.

"He rehabilitated an old, decaying piece of property and people were very happy about that," editor R.J. Marx says. "The feeling is that he acted a bit precipitously in clearing the trees... He's generally a good neighbor. It was out of character." METRO WORLD NEWS

Dan's looking forward to having children

PLEASE JUST ADOPT US AND PUT US IN YOUR WILL Daniel Radcliffe knows how to keep himself occupied once the Harry Potter film franchise wraps up: starting a family. "I've got kids to have yet," the 20-year-old actor tells the BBC. "I'm not planning on it soon. That's one of the things I'm really looking forward to doing. I've been here when a lot of people here have had kids while on the film, and I've seen the change it's made in their life and how amazing it is." METRO WORLD NEWS

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Friday Variable 4° / 0°
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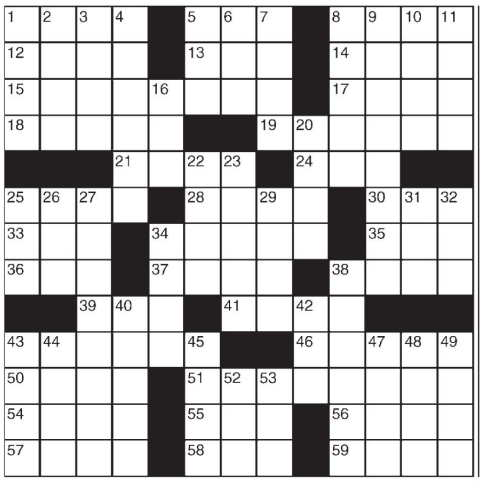
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Tater
5 Spade or heart
8 Name for a Dalmatian
12 Top-notch
13 — carte
14 Poi source
15 Stove type
17 From the start
18 Young hog
19 Don quickly
21 Sodium chloride
24 Violinist Kavafian
25 "Clue" weapon
28 Rams fans?
30 Sajak or Summerall
33 Commotion
34 "Stop, sailor!"
35 Listener
36 Banned bug spray
37 1492 ship
38 Wan
39 Carnival city
41 Swallow hard
43 Rosebush protectors
46 Ruin
50 Drench
51 Deep-dish apple dessert
54 Church section
55 Past
56 Crystal gazer
57 Emeritus (Abbr.)
58 Scarlet
59 Brutus' being

DOWN

1 Enervates
2 Milne bruin
3 "Do — others ..."
4 Cheapen
5 Chum
6 Under the weather
7 Picks up the check
8 Wood finish
9 Instruments
10 Sandwich cookie
11 Burg
16 H, to Hellenes
20 Final
22 Strauss of jeans fame
23 Nasality
25 "Awesome, dude!"
26 Peculiar
27 Braised beef
29 Birthright barterer
31 "That feels so good!"
32 Attempt
34 In due time
38 Place near
40 Seeing 58-across
42 1960s hallucinogen
43 Despot
44 Crosby co-star, often
45 Practise pugilism
47 Has bills
48 Mid-month day
49 Muse's harp
52 Time of your life?
53 Affirmative action

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

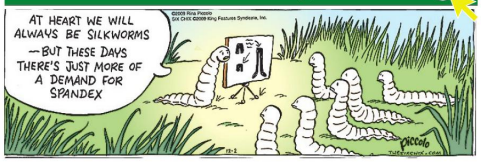
	2						5	
	8	7		1		3	6	
3			6		8			1
		3	4		7	8		
		2	3		5	9		
8			5		2			4
	7	4		9		5	8	
	6						2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

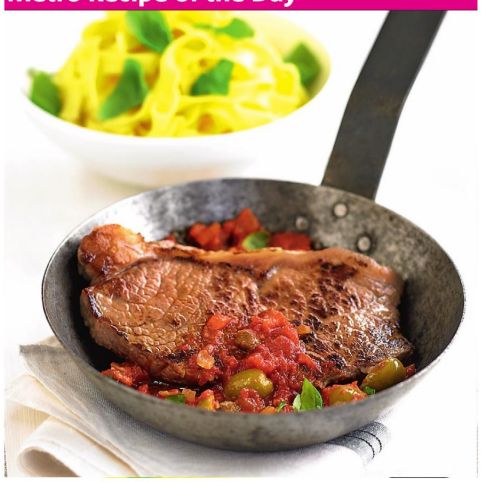
6	2	4	7	3	1	5	9	8
8	3	1	9	6	5	4	7	2
7	5	9	4	2	8	6	3	1
3	9	5	6	1	7	8	2	4
4	1	8	3	5	2	7	6	9
2	6	7	8	4	9	1	5	3
5	8	3	2	7	4	9	1	6
1	4	2	5	9	6	3	8	7
9	7	6	1	8	3	2	4	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Pan-fried Steaks with Italian Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

4 sirloin steaks, trimmed
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
14 oz (398 ml) can chopped tomatoes
6-3/4 tbsp (100 ml) white or red wine
2/3 lb (300 g) tagliatelle
1 tbsp (15 ml) capers, drained and rinsed
12 pitted black or green olives, halved
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh basil

METHOD:

1. Rub steaks with 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil and some black pepper. Heat large frying pan; cook steaks, about 2-1/2 minutes per side for rare, 4 minutes per side for medium, and 7 minutes per side for well done. Remove to plate using slotted spoon and keep warm.
2. Add remaining oil to pan, then add onion and garlic, and cook gently 5 minutes or until softened. Stir in tomatoes and wine. Cook gently 5-10 minutes, stirring occasionally to break down tomatoes.
3. While sauce is cooking, cook pasta according to package instructions. Drain. Stir capers into sauce with olives and basil; season to taste.
4. Return steaks to frying pan to heat through, spooning sauce over meat. Divide pasta among four plates. Serve steak and sauce over top.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.comFor Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
There really is no such thing as luck: Bear that thought in mind if someone tells you that you've been lucky. You created that "luck" for yourself.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't let today's full moon get you down. Soon you'll realize that what it took away from you is what you no longer need — in fact, it was in the way.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Although there is a full moon in your sign this is still potentially one of the best times of the year for you, so make the most of it.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You need to be more enthusiastic about what you are doing, especially on the work front. Think of your job as being fun, and most likely it will be.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Sit back and take what comes your way over the next 24 hours and trust that, on balance, it will be pleasant. Don't turn down a social invitation.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
It is important that you make an effort to patch up any minor disputes you may be having with partners and loved ones.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone will make you the proverbial offer you cannot refuse today but if you are smart you will do just that — there'll be a better offer coming soon.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be finding it hard to make ends meet but what happens today will remind you how well off you are in more important ways.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
There's no point judging yourself by others' standards. In fact, the full moon urges you not to judge at all. Accept everything and everyone.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Why waste so much energy trying to do things that don't come naturally to you? Play to your strengths if you want to be happy and successful.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
If ever there was a time to make an extra special effort that time is now. Your efforts will be supported by people who want to see you do well.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you are faced with a big problem today you must attack it in a big way. Don't pretend it does not exist or it does not really matter — because it does.

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